

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 00801 061340Z

41

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-05 /088 W

----- 037512

R 061115Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8826

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

UNCLAS KARACHI 0801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, EWTT, PK

SUBJ: FIRST CONTRACT AWARDED FOR PORT QASIM CONSTRUCTION

REF: KARACHI A-2, JAN 15, 1975

KARACHI A-9, JAN 31, 1975

BEGIN SUMMARY: PORT QASIM AUTHORITY (PQA) REPORTED BY KARACHI PRESS  
TO HAVE AWARDED INITIAL CONTRACT FOR MARGINAL WHARF  
CONSTRUCTION TO ROMANIAN FIRM. WORK ON THESE FIRST  
FOUR BERTHS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY END OF 1976.  
END SUMMARY

1. IN A SURPRISE MOVE PQA ON MAY 5 AWARDED CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION  
OF PHASE I OF PORT QASIM PROJECT TO THE ROMANIAN STATE ENTERPRISE  
"CONSTRANSIMEX". PHASE I INVOLVES CONSTRUCTION OF AN 800-METER LONG  
MARGINAL WHARF PROVIDING FIRST FOUR DEEP WATER BERTHS OF PORT  
COMPLEX. BERTHS WILL BE USED FOR EXPORT BULK CARGOES OF CEMENT AND  
RICE AND IMPORT OF EQUIPMENT FOR ADJACENT STEEL PLANT BEING BUILT  
WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE. APPROXIMATE COST OF PHASE I CONSTRUCTION  
WILL BE DOL\$15.5 MILLION.

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PAGE 02 KARACH 00801 061340Z

2. CHAIRMAN PQA COMMODORE I.H. MALIK CONFIRMED ABOVE DETAILS AND INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT ENTRANCE OF ROMANIAN FIRM ONTO SCENE HAD BEEN COMPLETE SURPRISE TO HIM SINCE A YUGOSLAV FIRM HAD BEEN FAVORED BIDDER BUT HAD WITHDRAWN ITS QUOTATION AT LAST MOMENT OWING TO EXCESS COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE AND ARRANGED FOR ROMANIAN'S TO COME IN WITH OFFER AT IDENTICAL PRICE. NEXT HIGHEST OFFER WAS FROM JAPANESE FIRM WHICH WOULD HAVE COST DOLS3 MILLION MORE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE. NO U.S. FIRMS COMPLETED FOR PHASE I BIDDING. WHEN QUERIED CONCERNING ABILITY ROMANIAN FIRM TO MOBILIZE EQUIPMENT AND FINISH PHASE I ON SCHEDULE BY END 1976, MALIK SAID PQA HAD CLOSELY INTERROGATED ROMANIANS ON THIS QUESTION AND BELIEVED THEY COULD DO JOB, BUT HE HAD HIS FINGERS CROSSED. PHASE I, HE SAID, WILL PROBABLY INVOLVE CAISSON TYPE WHARF CONSTRUCTION RATHER THAN CEMENT PILING AS PLANNED EARLIER.

3. NEXT DEVELOPMENT IN PORT QASIM CONSTRUCTION WILL BE ARRIVAL HERE IN JULY OF ADB STUDY AND APPRAISAL TEAM, WHICH WILL EXAMINE PQA MASTER PLAN AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PROSPECTIVE LOAN FOR CAPITAL DREDGING AND FURTHER WHARF CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATED COST OF DOLS60 MILLION.

4. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DISMISSAL OF FORMER PQA CHAIRMAN ARDESHIR COWASJEE IN DEC 1974, COMMODORE MALIK HAS BEEN WORKING HARD UNDER PRESSURE FROM MIN COMMUNICATIONS MUMTAZ ALI BHUTTO TO GET CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY, WHICH WOULD LEAD TO COMPLETION OF FIRST FOURTH BERTHS IN ADVANCE OF STEEL MILL NEEDS. MALIK NOW BELIEVES HE CAN MAINTAIN SCHEDULE, BUT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON YET UNDETERMINED CAPABILITIES OF ROMANIAN CONTRACTORS.

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## Message Attributes

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